(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) by when it is likely to recommence the generation;

(d) the steps being taken by Government to compensate Rajasthan for loss of generation from RAPS Unit-1;

(e) whether any request have been received from the State Government of Rajasthan to enhance allocation from RAPS Unit-III to VI; and

(f) if so, the steps that have been taken so far by Government to meet the demand of the State, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The unit has been shut down for detailed assessment of its health and techno-economic evaluation for its refurbishment.

(c) It is premature at this stage to fix any time frame for the commencement of operation of Rajasthan Atomic Power Station Unit 1 as the detailed evaluation is still underway.

(d) The State of Rajasthan has an allocation from the Narora Atomic Power Station (NAPS) in addition to share from Rajasthan Atomic Power Station units 2 to 4.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The requirements of all the States in the electricity region are considered by the Ministry of Power for appropriate allocation.

Generation of Electricity from Atomic Power in Rajasthan

†3487 SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey had been conducted to generate electricity from atomic power at any other place also in addition to Rawatbhata in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether based on the said survey the possibility of establishing an atomic power station on the bank of Mahi Bajaj Sagar in Bansbara district had been expressed;

(d) if so, the details of the progress made in this regard so far; and

(e) whether in order to explore the possibilities of installing an atomic power station elsewhere also in Rajasthan, the proposal to conduct surveys is under consideration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Site Selection Committee (SSC) of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has investigated sites offered by the Rajasthan Government in addition to Rawatbhata for setting up future nuclear power projects.

(c) Mahi Banswara site has been investigated and found to have potential.

(d) The existing sites, where power stations are in operation or projects are under construction, have also potential to set up additional units. It is considered prudent to fully utilies this potential for setting up new projects in near future so that available infrastructure is fully utilised without problems of land acquisition and displacement/rehabilitation of population. Thus, in addition to the four units in operation (RAPS 1—4) and two under construction (RAPP 5&6) at Rawatbhata, the Government has accorded 'in-principle' approval for setting up of two more units of 700 MWe at the same site. Accordingly, Mahi-Banswara, being a new site, is identified for consideration at a later date depending upon the nuclear power programme.

(e) No, Sir.

Advantages for Joining ITER

3488. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India would join ITER in a few days;

(b) if so, the details thereof;